

III. Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 9, line 32 of the original specification that starts "In another exemplary embodiment, by contrast, the circuit arrangement 10 contains components of a user circuit, see dashed line 50." With the replacement paragraph below:

In another exemplary embodiment, by contrast, the circuit arrangement 10 contains components of a user circuit, see dashed line 50. The user circuit is for example a memory unit 28 having several million memory cells or a processor 27. In this exemplary embodiment, the reliability tests are carried out on structures that have been fabricated by means of the same processes as identical structures in the user circuit. With such an integrated circuit, ongoing production can be monitored in the manner of random sampling or in its entirety in a very reliable manner.